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World Notes

LEBANON

Abduction at Gunpoint

Gunfire, shouted commands and the squeal of tires shattered Beirut's early-morning quiet one day last week as kidnapers seized yet another American. The victim was Lawrence Jenco, 51, a Roman Catholic priest who heads the Catholic Relief Services organization in the Lebanese capital. A band of gunmen forced the priest into his car and then drove off, loosing a volley of shots to clear traffic. Responsibility for the kidnaping was claimed by the Islamic Jihad, the shadowy group of terrorists responsible for the two U.S. embassy blasts and the attack in 1983 that killed 241 U.S. servicemen in Beirut.



Father Jenco

Jenco was the fifth U.S. citizen to disappear or be abducted in less than a year. Those missing include Jeremy Levin, 52, the Beirut bureau chief for Cable News Network; William Buckley, 56, a political officer at the U.S. embassy; the Rev. Benjamin Weir, 60, a Presbyterian minister; and Peter Kilburn, 60, a librarian at the American University of Beirut. More fortunate is Swiss Diplomat Eric Wehrli: he was released by his abductors last week after being held captive for five days.